CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. Use of a biologically active agent in the manufacture of a medicament for treatment of a condition selected from the group consisting of insulin resistance syndrome and diabetes including Type I Diabetes and Type II Diabetes; or for the treatment or reduction in the chance of developing atherosclerosis, arteriosclerosis, obesity, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, fatty liver disease, nephropathy, neuropathy, retinopathy, foot ulceration or cataracts associated with diabetes; or for the treatment of a condition selected from the group consisting of hyperlipidemia, cachexia, and obesity;
wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of:

4-(4-benzyloxy-3-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
Methyl 4-(4-benzyloxy-2-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoate;
Ethyl 4-(4-cyclohexylmethoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoate;
4-(3-chloro-4-cyclopropylmethoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
Ethyl 3-(4-benzyloxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(3-benzyloxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(2-benzyloxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Methyl 3-(3-(2,6-dichlorobenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(4-(4-chlorobenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(3-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(2-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(2-(2-methoxybenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(2-(3-methoxybenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(4-benzyloxy-3-chlorophenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(4-benzyloxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(3-benzyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. A method for treating a mammalian subject with a condition selected from the group consisting of insulin resistance syndrome, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, fatty liver

disease, cachexia, obesity, atherosclerosis and arteriosclerosis comprising administering to the subject an amount of the biologically active agent effective to treat the condition; wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of:

4-(4-benzyloxy-3-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
Methyl 4-(4-benzyloxy-2-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoate;
Ethyl 4-(4-cyclohexylmethoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoate;
4-(3-chloro-4-cyclopropylmethoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
Ethyl 3-(4-benzyloxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(3-benzyloxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(2-benzyloxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Methyl 3-(3-(2,6-dichlorobenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(4-(4-chlorobenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(3-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(2-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(2-(2-methoxybenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(2-(3-methoxybenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(4-benzyloxy-3-chlorophenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(4-benzyloxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(3-benzyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is administered orally.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the subject is a human.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the agent is administered in an amount from one milligram to four hundred milligrams per day.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein the condition is insulin resistance syndrome or Type II Diabetes.

7. The method of claim 2, wherein the condition is Type 1 Diabetes.

8. The method of claim 2, wherein the treatment reduces a symptom of diabetes or the chances of developing a symptom of diabetes, wherein the symptom is selected from the group consisting of: atherosclerosis, obesity, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, fatty liver disease, nephropathy, neuropathy, retinopathy, foot ulceration and cataracts, associated with diabetes.

9. A pharmaceutical composition for use in the treatment of a condition selected from the group consisting of insulin resistance syndrome, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, fatty liver disease, cachexia, obesity, atherosclerosis, arteriosclerosis and adapted for oral administration, comprising from one milligram to four hundred milligrams of biologically active agent selected from the group consisting of:

4-(4-benzyloxy-3-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
Methyl 4-(4-benzyloxy-2-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoate;
Ethyl 4-(4-cyclohexylmethoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoate;
4-(3-chloro-4-cyclopropylmethoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
Ethyl 3-(4-benzyloxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(3-benzyloxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(2-benzyloxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Methyl 3-(3-(2,6-dichlorobenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(4-(4-chlorobenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(3-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(2-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(2-(2-methoxybenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(2-(3-methoxybenzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(4-benzyloxy-3-chlorophenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(4-benzyloxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;
Ethyl 3-(3-benzyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

10. The invention substantially as described above.